

Madison approves plans

Village waiting for EPA recommendations before school construction can start

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The aging sanitary sewer system in Madison Village has put a temporary halt to school construction.

However, plans are under way to solve the sewer issues as council members unanimously passed action initiatives late Monday night.

The new middle school site is slated to be in Madison Township, but Madison Village would provide sewer and

water service.

The village must obtain permission to install a connection to its system.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency wasn't in favor of granting approval for the school construction project because of the noncompliance and capacity issues.

The EPA spoke to Madison Schools and village officials last month about its concerns with the wastewater treatment plant and the sanitary collection system.

Duane Frager, Madison Village councilman and chairman of the school liaison advisory group, said the village was above the acceptable levels of inflow and infiltration the EPA recommends and the sewage flow needs to be reduced by about 9,000 gallons.

The village approved a short-term maintenance plan that includes repairing manholes, which are suspected to be a cause of water overflow.

Wet weather, like the recent conditions in Northeast Ohio

in the past week, overflows the system by leaking into poorly maintained and faulty manholes.

The maintenance plan states: "A quick assumption of 30 (percent) to 40 percent of the manhole infrastructure exhibits some sort of deficiency, however, the goal is to repair the manholes that are most in need of repair; i.e. broken or displaced lids, leaking chimneys in depressed areas and excessive infiltration through the walls."

Council members approved a \$5,000 purchase order on Monday for URS Corp., the village's engineering firm, to begin to take inventory of the manholes as well as make repair recommendations.

"The key is the approximately 350 manholes in the village need to be inspected because a number of them are broken, cracked or deficient," Frager said.

He added they don't have updated information on the conditions and whereabouts

Documents online

Read the short-term maintenance plan Madison sent to the Ohio EPA.

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of these manholes.

Frager said Lake County commissioners have the final say on whether school construction plans can continue. Commissioners have said they

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wouldn't move forward until they receive the recommendations from the EPA.

Madison Village Administrator Alyson Moritz said the short-term plan was sent off to the EPA Tuesday for review.

The EPA district engineer promised the process would be expedited once the plan reached its office, said Madison Schools Superintendent Roger Goudy at Monday night's board meeting.

The village also approved a \$23,000 purchase order for a comprehensive stormwater

management study.

Frager said the village's engineering firm is going to create a model of the sanitary sewer system to start to recommend critical points for the village to address within its long-term plans.

Moritz said they are still exploring all options to fund the projects, but it's likely the money will come from the Enterprise Funds account.

"The village administration and council need to take some action as this has been an issue for many years now," Frager said.

"For whatever reason the village has not acted on it — we needed to stop talking and start acting."